

REMARKS

Claims 14-24 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, the specification and Fig. 1 are currently amended. Claims 14-24 remain unchanged. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfies a requirement of form asserted in the Office Action; (d) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims; and (e) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Status

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(4). Additionally, the claims stand rejected over the prior art of record. In particular, claims 14, 15, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mizumura (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2004/0005815)¹. Additionally, claims 14 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Machado (U.S. Patent No. 6,764,321).²

Independent Claims

Independent claim 14 recites a connector device for the production of an electrical connection between a mains cable and a cable harness in an electrical

¹ The Office Action for the third time refers to the Mizumura publication as "Judge et al.," which appears to be an error. Since this error has been repeated multiple times, it is not clear to Applicants whether a different reference may be intended.

² Although the grounds of rejection list claims 14 and 23, the discussion of the grounds of rejection references claims 14, 23 and 24. Applicants assume that the Examiner intended to list claims 14, 23 and 24 in the grounds of rejection.

device, especially a household appliance. The device includes a first plug-in connector including connection elements coupleable to the cable harness. The connection elements effect a detachable mechanical and electrical connection between the first plug-in connector and the cable harness. The device also includes a second plug-in connector establishing a detachable mechanical and electrical connection to the mains cable, where the second plug-in connector is provided for a plurality of different mains cables and has an identical connector configuration for each of the different mains cables.

Independent claim 24 recites a connection system comprising a plurality of different mains cables each having a differently configured mains contact plug and a connector device for the production of an electrical connection between any of the plurality of mains cables and a cable harness in an electrical device. The connector device includes a first plug-in connector including connection elements coupleable to the cable harness, where the connection elements effect a detachable mechanical and electrical connection to the cable harness of the electrical device, and a second plug-in connector establishing a detachable mechanical and electrical connection to any of the mains cables. The second plug-in connector is provided for the plurality of different mains cables and has an identical connector configuration for each of the different mains cables. The plurality of mains cables have a corresponding connector contact plug with an identical configuration regardless of the design of the mains contact plug and comprise a cable harness whose plurality of electrical conductors can be connected to the connector device by means of a single plug-in contact connection.

Drawings

With regard to the drawing objection, Fig. 1 has been revised as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Rejections over Prior Art

With regard to the Mizumura publication, the remarks from the Amendment filed July 16, 2010 are hereby reasserted by reference. In the "Response to Arguments" section on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner dismisses Applicants' argument, providing that "the terms detachable/coupleable just mean that the structure be able to be coupled/detached." As noted previously, even assuming this overbroad contention is accurate, the structure described in the Mizumura publication is neither coupleable to a cable harness nor capable of effecting a detachable mechanical and electrical connection to a mains cable as claimed. Despite Applicants' contentions in this regard, the Office Action fails to provide any comment or discussion concerning how the Mizumura back plane connector could possibly serve to connect a cable harness to a mains cable.

Additionally, Applicants' detailed discussion with regard to the features of claim 24 is not addressed in the Office Action.

With regard to Machado, Applicants arguments from the Amendment filed July 16, 2010 are hereby reasserted by reference. The distinctions discussed between the invention and the Machado patent in the July 16 response as well as in an Amendment filed March 29, 2010 are still disregarded in the Office Action.

With regard to the dependent claims, Applicants submit that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on an allowable independent claim and because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 16-22.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 14-24 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 1, 2010

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